

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

28-Jan-1989 12:15 EDT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CHILDRESS

FROM: VMS MAIL user WHSR
(WHSR@VAXE@)

SUBJECT:

Received: From VAXE(WHSR) by VAXC with Jnet id 8040
for CHILDRESS@VAXC; Sat, 28 Jan 89 12:15 EDT
Date: Sat, 28-JAN-1989 12:14 EST
From: <WHSR@VAXE>
To: CHILDRESS@VAXC

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SIT: CHILDRESS

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TO RUETIAA/DIRNSA
RUEHC/DEPT OF STATE
RUEKJCS/DIA
RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
ZEN/CIA OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS

<SUBJ>
SUBJ: POW/MIA: PRIVATE FORAY BY AMERICAN AND LAO
RESISTANCE PERSONNEL FROM THAILAND TO LAOS IN
SEARCH FOR AMERICANS; REPORTED CROSSING OF A
SECOND FORAY INVOLVING FOREIGN NATIONALS

<TEXT>

BT

~~SECRET~~ SPECAT NOFORN NOCONTRACT ORCON WNINTEL

CITE
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PASS: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM;
NSA FOR ZKZK OO ZRL DE (EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, NSA);
STATE EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR; DIA
EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIA (DIA IS AUTHORIZED TO PASS
THIS INFORMATION TO THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTERS IN
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BANGKOK AND BARBERS POINT, HAWAII, FOR COMMANDERS ONLY).

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WARNING: INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
REPORT CLASS ~~S E C R E T~~--WNINTEL--NOFORN--NOCONTRACT--ORCON
DIST: 28 JANUARY 1989

EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION TO ADDRESSEES LISTED AT END OF REPORT

COUNTRY: LAOS/THAILAND
SUBJ: POW/MIA: PRIVATE FORAY BY AMERICAN AND LAO
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DOI:

SOURCE:

(b)(3)

TEXT. 1. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE LAO RESISTANCE, ON THE NIGHT
OF 25 DECEMBER 1988 A GROUP OF EIGHT LAO RESISTANCE MEMBERS LED BY A
FORMER ROYAL LAO AIRFORCE OFFICER, COLONEL ((CHIT)) SOULIYASAK,
CROSSED INTO LAOS ACCOMPANYING AN AMERICAN IDENTIFIED AS MARK A.
((SMITH)). THE CROSSING WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN TWO BOATS WHICH DEPARTED
THE AREA OF BAN LAT YA KHA (WC4370), KHEMMARATH DISTRICT, UBON
RATCHATHANI PROVINCE AT 2330 HOURS. THE GROUP TRANSPORTED SUPPLIES,
PRIMARILY UNIFORMS AND FOOTWARE, AS WELL AS UNSPECIFIED AMOUNTS OF
MEDICINE, AMMUNITION AND TWO MILITARY TYPE RADIO SETS. THE GROUP
REPORTEDLY WAS MET ON THE LAO SIDE OF THE MEKONG RIVER BY A 60-MAN
LAO RESISTANCE FORCE COMMANDED BY ((PHAN)) NOPHOUVIENG. (FIELD
COMMENT

(b)(3)

A 3 APRIL 1988 FORAY INVOLVING SMITH AND A LAO RESISTANCE GROUP
SMITH, CHIT AND PHAN WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN A SIMILAR FORAY
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WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER 1987.)

2. ACCORDING TO THE RESISTANCE MEMBER, THE PURPOSE OF THE FORAY
WAS TO ACT AS A RESUPPLY MISSION FOR THE RESISTANCE FORCES UNDER
PHAN, TO ASSESS THE STRENGTH OF THE RESISTANCE FORCES IN THE AREA,
AND TO CONTINUE TO THE LAO-VIETNAM BORDER AREA ON AN UNSPECIFIED
POW/MIA MISSION. REPORTEDLY SMITH AND CHIT PLAN TO REMAIN IN LAOS
FOR A PERIOD OF 100 DAYS. (COMMENT: ACCORDING TO A SECOND
MEMBER OF THE LAO RESISTANCE WHO ALSO WAS AWARE OF THE DECEMBER
CROSSING IT IS BELIEVED THAT AFTER LANDING IN LAOS SMITH AND THE
SUPPLIES WERE ESCORTED TO PHAN'S OPERATIONAL BASE LOCATED IN THE
VICINITY OF DONG SITHOUAN (WC5979), SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE. THIS IS
THE SAME BASE AREA REPORTEDLY USED DURING THE SEPTEMBER 1987 FORAY.)

(b)(3)

3.

[REDACTED] IN ADDITION TO THE CROSSING MADE BY SMITH AND [REDACTED] (b)(3)
CHIT, A SECOND GROUP OF THREE FOREIGNERS WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE
CROSSED INTO LAOS ACCOMPANIED BY A LAO RESISTANCE GROUP ON THE NIGHT
OF 25 DECEMBER. THE OFFICER IDENTIFIED THE FOREIGNERS BASED ON
INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM A KHEMMARATH TOWN HOTEL REGISTRATION FORMS
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AS JOHN ((AGOTNES)), A CITIZEN OF NORWAY; MIKAEL (SIC) ((KORLESON)) A
CITIZEN OF SWEDEN; AND BLAIR ((ARMSTRONG)), A CANADIAN NATIONAL THE
THREE WERE DESCRIBED AS STUDENTS IN THEIR MID-TWENTIES. REPORTEDLY
THE CROSSING ALSO OCCURRED IN THE BAN LAT YA KHA AREA APPROXIMATELY
ONE HOUR AFTER THE CROSSING REPORTEDLY MADE BY SMITH. (FIELD COMMENT
TWO SEPARATE FORAYS CROSSING INTO LAOS ON THE SAME NIGHT USING THE
SAME LAUNCH SITE SEEMS UNLIKELY. IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THE TWO
GROUPS WERE ASSOCIATED OR THE OFFICER INCORRECTLY LINKED THE PRESENCE
OF THE THREE "STUDENTS" IN KHEMMARATH TOWN WITH THE CROSSING MADE BY
SMITH. THERE HAS BEEN NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE
REPORT OF THE SECOND CROSSING.)

ACQ [REDACTED]
DISSEM: FIELD: EMBASSY AT BANGKOK (AMBASSADOR AND DEFATT ONLY).
WASHINGTON DISSEM:

TO WHSITRM: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
TO STATE: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR

TO DIA: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIA
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TO NSA: EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR, NSA

WARNING: REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING NOTICE--INTELLIGENCE
SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--
NOT RELEASABLE TO CONTRACTORS/CONSULTANTS-- DISSEMINATION AND
EXTRACTION OF INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR.

DECL: OADR DRV [REDACTED] BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. ALL PORTIONS
CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT.

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SECTION: 01 OF 01

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